

FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMISSINERS MEETING
MEMORANDUM & MINUTES
MARCH 3, 2008 @ 1:00 P.M
FIRST FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM

Those Present:	County Commissioners	Thomas E Wilson	Eric E Roberts	Donald M VonderMeulen
	County Auditor	Susan A Jones		
	Commissioners Secretary	Carol Westerman		

Tom Wilson opened the March 3, 2008 meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

WEEKLY
REPORT

Susan Jones, Auditor reported that the Homestead Credit Rebate checks should be mailed out either later on this week or next. The Office is still working on balancing the Real Estate values. This is taking longer to balance, for some reason the new Homestead Credits that were put on by the Assessor’s Office, did not pull over to the Auditor’s Tax File.

MINUTES

The minutes pertaining to the Wm A Dare Ditch were questioned in regards to the question Tom Wilson asked on the pond on Don Harvey’s Property if it was included in the Assessment, it was not included. Also on the motion Don Reibolt was not a Union County Commissioner to be included in on the motion. This was corrected and reprinted.

Don VonderMeulen motion to accept the Minutes (February 25, 2008), with correction made. Eric Roberts seconds. Tom Wilson, All in favor. Motion carried.

PROCLAMATION
VIETNAM VETERANS
RECOGNITION WEEK

Don VonderMeulen presented a Proclamation for the week of September 1, 2008, being Vietnam Veterans Recognition Week in Franklin County, Indiana. This coincides with the Vietnam Moving Wall scheduled to be at the Whitewater Memorial State Park on September 4th thru September 8th, Franklin, Union, Wayne, Fayette County’s have joined together for the moving wall being at the State Park.

Tom Wilson motioned to sign Proclamation designating the week of September 1, 2008 for Vietnam Veterans Recognition Week. Don VonderMeulen seconds. Eric Roberts, All in favor. Motion carried.

HIGHWAY ENGINEER
WEEKLY REPORT

RAILFENCE ROAD BRIDGES 110 & 111 – George Hartman, Highway Engineer presented a letter to the Board of Commissioners that needs to be sent to Bob Winslow with INDOT at the Seymour District that needs signed. This letter is providing a list of consultants that had provided Letters of Interests for Construction Engineering Services for Railfence Road Bridge 110 & 111 Bridge Project. These Proposals were opened on February 25, 2008. INDOT will then in turn send Consultant Selection Scoring Sheets or rating sheets to be filled out for each of the (7) firms that has submitted proposals. Commissioners signed Letter.

George also mentioned that Joe Gillespie had received a Certification Letter from INDOT that all parcels within the project have been acquired, and the right-of-way is clear for contract letting. The Bid Letting date for the Project is September 2008. The Commissioners questioned the September letting date; they had been told earlier that it would be an April letting. George said they have changed the process and he will talk to Steve Flores to see where we stand. The Commissioners concerns are the funding is in place for 2008, if it’s a September letting it will be in the 2009 Budget. John Graf is getting ready to submit the Final Plans for the Project electronically to be reviewed by Bob Windslow of INDOT; the project letting date would depend upon how much time it takes to get final plans approved.

BRIDGE INSPECTION PHASE I – George presented LPA Claim Voucher No. 7 for the local agency in the amount of \$1,720.00, 80% federal share reimbursement \$1,368.00, a copy of claim form prepared by the Highway Department will need be attached and submitted to INDOT for reimbursement. The bridge inspection phase I is 95% complete. The final report will be prepared once all load limit, one lane bridge and advance warning load limit signs are installed and documented. Installation of all safety improvement signs must be completed as soon as possible. George presented a list of bridges that need to be posted. He will also get with Stello Products to get signs needed for posting of these bridges. Also INDOT will no longer review preliminary reports for bridge inspection as of February 21, 2008, they will only accept final reports.

Eric Roberts moved for Tom Wilson to sign LPA Claim for Bridge Inspection. Don VonderMeulen seconds. Motion carried.

JOHNSON FORK BRIDGE 100 - A Project Progress Report prepared by Drew Barth of Howard J Barth & Associates for Johnson Fork Bridge 100. In the report from February 1, 2008 through February 15, 2008 are the pay items for change order no. 5. The estimate signed by Millestone and returned for final processing. At this time the total project cost is close to the original bid amount of \$851,000. The contractor still needs to haul and place rip rap to fill voids in the existing rip rap. This is additional material that INDOT required to be installed during the final project inspection.

SNOW HILL COVERED BRIDGE 102 – Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana had sent a letter dated February 25, 2008 to Mr. Robert Tally of the Federal Highway Administration and copied to the Board of Commissioners, regarding the Snow Hill Covered Bridge 102 Project. The letter included items discussed in the February 11, 20008 meeting. Drew Barth of Howard J Barth & Associates had found plan sheets for that had been prepared for Snow Hill Road across Johnson Fork Creek of Bridge 100 and sent them to Kevin Loiselle of Farrar, Garvey & Associates.

PIPE CREEK BRIDGE 48 – Received copy of Letter from Farrar, Garvey & Associates regarding Pipe Creek Bridge 48 Preliminary Field Check Notification scheduled for March 12, 2008 at 10:00 A.M. at the project site. George also mentioned that Kevin Loiselle is also preparing a Memorandum of Agreement that needs to be signed b y the Board of Commissioners for the rehabilitating of the bridge with a new steel grid deck. The right-of-way plats and descriptions can be prepared and appraisals can be initiated, no offers can be made to property owners until the Final Section 106 is completed.

INDIANA HISTORIC BRIDGE INVENTORY – Received letters from INDOT dated February 6 and February 20, 2008 and Mead & Hunt, Inc., Consult for the project needing project information, which includes developing a list of select bridges and a programmatic agreement with the County. Also, requesting information regarding existing preservation commitments that are already in place. Those already listed are Enochsburg Covered Bridge 73, Pipe Creek Bridge 48, Harvey Branch Bridge 78, Snow Hill Covered Bridge 102 and Bridge 140, which is maintained by Decatur County, Bridge 80 in their inventory. George will prepare a letter and documentation for the next meeting.

TRAINING FOR CULVERT INSTALLATION is scheduled for Friday, February 7th at the Government Center.

LUGAR
GRANT

Don VonderMeulen had prepared a letter to be sent to Senator Lugar for Federal Grant funding to replace the Yellow Bank and Bushy Roads Low Water Crossing that are currently in use. The County is requesting \$880,000.00 Federal Appropriation and could be matched with \$220,000.00 of Local Funds so that the improvements can be made within the next two years. Don had previously submitted a grant application and was told the way the application was submitted it could not be funded, they need more information. Don can still resubmit application.

Eric Roberts moved that we sign letter to Senator Lugar and for Don to continue to work on the application and submit by March 7, 2008. Tom Wilson seconds. Don VonderMeulen, All in Favor. Motion carried

HARRY
GRAVES

Harry Graves asked how much time he has. Presented the Board of Commissioners a letter. Appeared in the Commissioner’s Office asking that his name be removed from the CIC Committee on February 15th. Last week he received a letter from Mr. Gillespie of a meeting date for the CIC Committee. Mr. Graves is requesting a letter be prepared that his name was removed from the CIC Committee and letter sent to who ever received a copy of the list.

TOM RITZ

Tom Ritz feels Harry’s point is they CIC are property owners, not people who rent. Tom presented copies of the zoning code to the Commissioners that were recorded, but not signed by the previous Board of Commissioners. Also, presented a copy of IC Code for recording of ordinance. Tom is requesting a signed copy of the ordinance. Also, stated that Cody was charged for copies. Tom Ritz asked Gene about the current text that is recorded and no signatures are on it. Gene said he assumed that could be raised at an Area Plan Commission proceedings if someone wants to challenge something to be done, right now he doesn’t know the answer.

Tom asked if the Committee’s gathering information for the zoning text are they all going to be charged for copies. Cody was charged 10 cents for copies should have been charged 5 cents a copy. The Commissioners said this is something the OC Committee should bring back to the Commissioners after their Wednesday Night’s Meeting.

PROPOSAL
VERIZON
INTERNET

Eric Roberts questions the prices provided by RBSK on the high speed internet services, on the different speeds. Eric said hopefully ETC would have service in the area by the end of the summer. Eric would really rather go with ETC. Eric asked that RBSK come and explain the proposal.

SNOW EMERGENCY
LEVELS LETTER TO

EMPLOYEES

Letter was submitted clarifying the snow emergency levels that is to be given to County Employees, when or not to come to work. There was discussion and Don wants more clarification in the letter.

Eric Roberts moved to sign letter when corrections were made.

METAMORA REGIONAL
SEWER DISTRICT BOARD

IMPACT FEES

Mike Moore of the Metamora Regional Sewer District Board asked if anything was done on the proposal in generating additional revenue for the sewer district. The Board wants to add impact fees during the Canal Days. The Budget for the Sewer District is \$167,000.00 a year, 261 sewer bills are sent out generating \$60 - \$80 per customer. If a \$50 impact fee could be put on per vendor during canal days @ 1600 vendors, this could be used to reduce the customer’s sewer bills in half. Instead of paying \$800 a year it could be \$400. Tom said he had talked to Gene Stewart, County Attorney, if this could be done. It was said didn’t know if County could implement the fee, it would need to be implemented by the Metamora Regional Sewer District Board. The Sewer bills are generated and collected by the sewer board, the County is not involved with collecting sewer bills. If they the impact fees are collected to reduce the sewer bills, then the Sewer Board would need to implement. Would need to check with the State Board of Accounts. Don VonderMeulen reported that this was also discussed at the Commissioners Council for Historic Metamora and how this impact fee would impact canal days.

REX PRE-HEARING

CONFERENCE

Eric Roberts reported that they had attended the REX Pre-Hearing Conference today at 10:00 A.M. on behalf of the Franklin County Drainage Board at Greensburg. Representatives from Rex and DNR as well as Hoosier Hills Water, were present. Petition filed. One major change to the plans to the proposed crossing of the Whitewater River was changed from a 4 foot depth to a 40 foot depth. We will be receiving a revised permit from DNR. Administrative Law Judge Sandra Jensen, with the Department of Natural Resources over seen the pre-hearing conference. She said the pipeline will not have negative impact on the waterway and will have no negative effect on the wildlife and pose no negative effect to the citizens or property. The Franklin County Drainage Board and Hoosier Hills will need to prove that the public health and safety of the citizens will be affected.

Tom Ritz asked to make sure the Whitewater Advisory Board is involved. It was said they would need to file a petition, like Hoosier Hills did, then it was discussed if the land owners along the river needed to file. There attorney filed Hoosier Hills Petition. Rex filed the review permit to change for the 40 foot depth. Eric asked Gene if the Whitewater River Advisory Board file a petition, don’t know how they would help us. The issue we have to raise is whether if the effect the flow of the river, this is Gene’s thoughts. The second issue is we can establish through some type of evidence or expert testimony that there is a likelihood that this is going to disruptive form the water flow to the system or disruptive force. Eric suggested that the Whitewater River Advisory Board attend the Area Plan Commission in March.

Gene mentioned he did phone the other water companies involved, with the 40 foot depth, if they want to file petition to object. Also a public hearing is to be held April 19th with REX with regards to a Special Exception allowing REX to proceed with the project.

STIPPS HILL
ROADSIDE
CLEANUP

Don reported that Rhonda Alvey is requesting a box of trash bags to do the Stipps Hill Road Cleanup. Tom will get with the Solid Waste District to get trash bags.

ADJOURN

Tom Wilson motioned to adjourn. Eric Roberts seconds. Don VonderMeulen, All in favor. Motion carried.

Also Present:

Thomas Ritz
Jeff Jones
Gene Stewart

Michael Moore
Scott McDonough
George Hartman

Seth T Whitecotton
Marty Hon

Harry Graves
Cody Ritz

AYE

NAY

Thomas E Wilson

Thomas E Wilson

Eric E Roberts

Eric E Roberts

Donald M VonderMeulen

Donald M VonderMeulen

ATTEST:

Susan A Jones, Franklin County Auditor